

and have been frequently mentioned. Long speeches will not be endured if members are obliged to listen: instead of written essays will come extemporaneous debate, which will bring out the points of a question and hasten an intelligent decision: legislators in debate will be legislators in fact, better or worse, and will devote the three or four hours of the daily session to business. Fewer letters will be written during those hours, fewer legs will be prominently displayed to the galleries. Buncombe will not at once cease its existence, but unless it be entertaining Buncombe, it will not be listened to. This reform will necessitate a change in the awkward and confused rules of the House, and will be likely to hasten the abolition of franking, a reform which, apart from its economical advantages, commends itself to all opponents of the diffusion of useless documents and speeches.

THE LATEST NEWS.

RECEIVED BY
MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

From Washington.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1859.

It was recently reported throughout the city, and believed at noon to-day, that Postmaster-General Brown was dead. After bidding farewell to the members of his family about 11 o'clock, he fell into a sleep which was so very quiet that his breathing was not detected, and some members of the family thought him dead. Hence the report. He awoke, but now lies in a hopeless condition. The most sanguine of his physicians having decided that he can live but a few hours.

Mr. Weller, nominated for Postmaster of San Francisco, was confirmed in Executive Session to-day by a strict party vote. Mr. Broderick voted against him. The charges against Weller were of a very serious character, enough to criminate most men before a Court of Justice, but apparently of little consequence to his fellow-Democrats in the United States Senate. Mr. Broderick's statements to the Senate concerning the practices of Weller, should have been sufficient to cause his rejection.

A message from the Senate announced that all the nominations made to the last Senate, which had not been acted upon, might be considered as made to this Senate. This called up the case of Mr. Potter, Collector of Toledo, Ohio, who was rejected by one vote, and a motion to reconsider the vote placed on file. It was argued by the friends of Potter, that the motion to reconsider made in the last Congress holds good in the present. This extraordinary assumption was overruled by the Vice-President. So the nomination of Mr. Potter will have to be sent in again. I learn that the President is determined on such a course, as he wishes to defeat Pugh, and he knows that Potter, who is bitterly opposed to the return of Pugh, by being in office will have more means and influence to accomplish the object desired. The opinion is, that the present Senate will confirm him.

Mr. Mandeville, the Surveyor-General of California, was confirmed to-day, also by a strict party vote. Mr. Stuart, Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands in the last Senate, made a report against the official conduct of Mandeville, showing that he had been guilty of glaring frauds. These were again presented to-day as reasons why Mr. Buchanan should never have nominated him, and why the Senate should not confirm him; but the Democratic Senators confirmed him.

A motion was made and filed in Executive Session to-day to reconsider the vote whereby Mr. Wiggins was rejected on Saturday as Commissioner under the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, but no vote was had on the subject.

Treaties with several Indian tribes in Minnesota, Dakota, Kansas and Florida, were called up and action upon them deferred until to-morrow.

The opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Black as Governor of Nebraska, was on the ground that he was too intemperate. This was about two months ago. Ever since that time he has been in this city, illustrating the truth of the charges against him, and is at the present time reduced to a sad condition.

There is a report that the anonymous letters to Messrs. Key and Sickles, warning one and informing the other, were written by a female friend of the former, believed to be Baltimore, who was jealous of his attentions to Mrs. Sickles.

The Grand Jury will consider the case of Mr. Sickles to-morrow, and it is expected that he will be put upon his trial on Monday next, if a bill is found, as to which there is no doubt.

The Senate is being canvassed in view of the approaching session of Postmaster-General Brown, to learn what the chances would be for certain Senators and ex-Senators for the successorship to that office. Among the candidates are Senator Yulee and ex-Senator Jones of Iowa.

Owing to the embarrassing condition of the department, the Cabinet has deemed it necessary to consider the subject. Mr. Phelps (Mo.) is reported to have declined the place, and Postmaster Fowler of New-York is considered the most prominent candidate.

Senator Brown, of Mississippi, who was at the bedside of Postmaster General Brown, at 9 o'clock this evening, informs me that he was just alive, and that not the slightest hope was then entertained of his recovery.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 7, 1859.

The rumor that the Postmaster General died at 11:30 a. m. to-day is unfounded. At 1:45 p. m. he was apparently easier, and breathed more freely than for the past two hours.

The Senate was in secret session for five hours to-day, and, after a spirited debate, confirmed Charles D. Weller as Postmaster of San Francisco, and J. V. Mandeville as Surveyor-General of California.

Mr. McLane was confirmed unanimously as Minister to Mexico, and Mr. La Reinste as Secretary of Legation.

Mr. McLane will leave the city to-morrow, for Vera Cruz, with instructions to recognize the Constitutional Government, provided it is in a condition to maintain its existence. Mr. Churchill has again written to the State Department, urging its recognition. This the Administration is inclined to do, and hence the appointment of Mr. McLane.

Senior Mats has been here, anxiously awaiting the recognition of his Government directly by this Administration, and his consequent reception as Minister; and as the recognition, if at all, will take place in Mexico, he considers his mission suspended for the present. He will soon leave for New Orleans, there to await further instructions from his Government, in the event of Mr. McLane presenting his credentials to the Mexican Government. Senior Mats will, there is little doubt, return to Washington in a diplomatic capacity.

The Senate have a number of Indian treaties, embracing those of Oregon and Washington, to act upon. As these are so intimately connected with the present question of peace on the Pacific, there can be no doubt of their importance.

There is a clause in the Treasury Note law just passed authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue registered or coupon stocks, as the purchasers may elect. As he has already re-issued coupon stocks, the Secretary has decided he will not change it.

There is a prospect whatever of his recovery.

CONGRESS.

SENATE—EXTRA SESSION.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1859.

Mr. SEWARD's resolution, calling on the Secretary of War for copies of contracts which have been made for the removal of the obstructions at the mouth of the Mississippi, was adopted, and the matter referred to a select committee.

Mr. BROWN presented a memorial from Messrs. P. House & Bolter, bidders of extra documents for the Senate, alleging that, owing to the small amount of binding they have had, as contrasted with previous years, they have lost money, and therefore ask indemnity.

On motion of Mr. MASON, the memorial was tabled by aye-nay vote.

The Senate then went into Secret Session.

No public business was transacted, and as soon as the doors opened the Senate adjourned.

The Sickles Trial.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 7, 1859.

The trial of Mr. Sickles will not be commenced so early as many have anticipated. The jail doctor, embracing the small offences, is usually first taken up, and may occupy a week longer. His counsel did not appear in Court to-day.

Death of Ex-Senator Geyer.

St. Louis, March 6, 1859.

The Hon. Henry S. Geyer, formerly U. S. Senator from Missouri, died last night.

Later from Mexico.

NEW-ORLEANS, Monday, March 7, 1859.

The brig Minutilla arrived here on Saturday with Tampico dates to the 25th ult.

The Liberals were actively prosecuting the war. Juarez had taken the field, and gone to Vera Cruz, which is in a perfect state of defense.

Gen. Espanza had been taken by the Liberals at Aguascalientes.

Bath, Maine, Municipal Election.

BATH, Me., March 7, 1859.

The municipal election resulted to-day in the choice of Israel Putnam, Republican, and the rest of the Republican ticket with the exception of four vacancies in the Council.

Fire in Saco, Me.

SACO, Me., Monday, March 7, 1859.

A fire broke out in the miller room of the York Manufacturing Company, destroying property to the value of \$15,000. The other buildings of the Company were saved.

Fire at Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Monday, March 7, 1859.

At half-past 9 o'clock on Saturday night, the Burnham Block, next below the American Hotel, on Main street, was destroyed by fire. It was occupied in the lower part by Martin Roth, hat maker; Mrs. Rose, millinery; Henry Drell, cigar store. The upper part was occupied as offices. The entire block, with nearly all the contents of the stores and offices, was destroyed, including valuable law and medical libraries. Loss nearly \$30,000; insurance \$15,000.

Strike of Workmen.

ELIZABETHTOWN, N. J., March 7, 1859.

The laborers employed in the coalfields have struck for higher wages. The hundred men from Scranton, who were coming to take the place of the strikers, are now expected.

Naval.

BOSTON, Monday, March 7, 1859.

The flag ship Cumberland was at Port Praya Jan. 26, to leave soon for Gorea. The Dale had left Port Praya for Monrovia, and the Marion to cruise on the coast. The Vincennes was daily expected at Port Praya, from whence she would probably go to Madras.

The prolonged trial of Dr. David R. Brown, charged with causing the death of Miss Susan A. Webster by illegal practices, resulted in the jury being unable to agree—eleven for conviction, one for acquittal. The jury was together 41 hours.

The Ship Vanguard.

NEW-ORLEANS, Saturday, March 5, 1859.

The fire on board the ship Vanguard has been put out. She is saved, but is considerably damaged.

Weather Reports.

MONDAY, March 7, 1859.

BALTIMORE—Cloudy and cool.
WASHINGTON—Cloudy and cool.
NEW-YORK—Cloudy and cool.
BOSTON—Cloudy and cool.
PHILADELPHIA—Cloudy and cool.
PITTSBURGH—Cloudy and cool.
CINCINNATI—Cloudy and cool.
ST. LOUIS—Cloudy and cool.
CHICAGO—Cloudy and cool.
SAN FRANCISCO—Cloudy and cool.
MEXICO—Cloudy and cool.

GUANO ISLANDS DISCOVERED.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1859.

Noticing, a few days since, that Clipperton Island had been proclaimed to the world as belonging to the Emperor of France, and as this guano question has become one of the first moment, it has occurred to me it would not be uninteresting to your readers to know if any, and how many guano islands in the Pacific Ocean or elsewhere have become the property of citizens of the United States, and have been recognized by the Government as pertaining to its territories under the act of Congress approved August 18, 1856.

The following is believed to be a correct list of said islands, and their several latitudes and longitudes, viz:

Island	Latitude	Longitude
Baker	1° 15' N.	155° 30' W.
Jarvis	16° 45' N.	169° 30' W.
Howland	41° 55' N.	170° 30' W.
Malden	32° 55' N.	159° 05' W.
Christmas	1° 15' S.	157° 30' W.
Cook	1° 15' S.	159° 15' W.
St. James	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
San Juan	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
San Pedro	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
San Pablo	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
San Felipe	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
San Carlos	16° 45' N.	170° 30' W.
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